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## Steam trains scheduled to return to Heidelberg



Massive tourism boost on the cards Read more on page 3

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# Mighty steam engine set to make its way to Heidelberg end of April

HEIDELBERG - Heidelberg residents can brace themselves for an unprecedented influx of tourists after Reefsteamers chairman Clive Holiday confirmed that a steam train carrying up to 350 passengers will be stopping at the Heidelberg Heritage Museum at the end of April.

This will be the first time since the late 90s that a mighty steam engine will make its way to Heidelberg.

Holiday said that following lengthy nego-

tiations, Reefsteamers were granted permission by Transnet to make use of the railway lines from Johannesburg, adding that they had also received the blessing of the Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom who visited the newly refurbished station last month.

"The steam train will depart from Germiston and pick up passengers at Johannesburg's Park Station before proceeding to Heidelberg," Holiday confirmed.

"We are hoping to book the train trip for April 27. Tickets and more information will be made available on our website shortly."

It takes approximately one hour for the steam locomotive to reach Heidelberg and once the passengers arrive, they will be entertained at the Heidelberg Heritage Museum which boasts an all new train themed restaurant, craft beer brewery and a tourism information centre.

According to local entrepreneur and driving force of the newly established museum, Bouwe Wiersma, the challenge now lies with Heidelberg residents and businesses to ensure that the tourists have something to do once they reach their destination.

"We would like to encourage all businesses and tour operators to get involved in the marketing of Heidelberg," said Wiersma who is hoping that va-

rious alternate activities/tours would be arranged in advance of this new chapter in the history of Heidelberg's tourism industry.

Residents who would like to get involved can phone Wiersma on 082 671 6595. Ticketing information for the steam train ride will be available at [www.reefsteamers.com](http://www.reefsteamers.com) shortly.



All aboard! The Ex SAR Class 12AR No 1535, affectionately known as Susan, will be making her way to Heidelberg from Park Station in Johannesburg in April in what is expected to be the first of many visits to the foothills of the Suikerbosrand.

## Police officers injured in collision



HEIDELBERG - Members of Heidelberg SAPS were involved in a collision when they responded to an accident at 23:45 on the R42 Nigel Road on March 9. According to SAPS Heidelberg spokesperson Captain Madeleine von Wielligh, the driver of a Toyota Fortuner was reportedly driving recklessly, lost control of his car and then slammed into the police vehicle. Two Heidelberg SAPS members were injured and the vehicle was written off. One officer sustained minor injuries while the other is recovering in hospital. A case of reckless driving is being investigated.

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